

10-7-09

Pot holes cover the Valley Campus, no resolution in sight.

»2

Facebook/Twitter debate - Are they really all that?

»4

Brian Biery, mild-mannered music student by day, super-human drummer by night.

»5

Monarchs win two straight in conference opens against Santa Monica and West Los Angeles Colleges.

»6

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

los angeles valley college's

WHERE DO THE MONARCHS GO FROM HERE?

Men's Water Polo Loses 15 - 10 Against Ventura College

»7

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October 7, 2009

Volume 71, Issue 4

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

"WHIP IT"

INTERVIEW

Drew Barrymore sits down with the Valley Star.

ONLINE SLIDESHOWS



Women's Soccer

Away game at Pierce College.



Valley's Water Polo

Men's and women's water polo photos from last week's first home-games of the season.



Soap Box Race

Images from the all-day Downtown Los Angeles races. Forty teams raced for the prize, as 110,000 spectators watched, cheering on the wacky racers and their home-made vehicles.

These full stories and more can be read online @ www.lavalleystar.com



STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CAMPUS COMPUTERS

SAMUEL OSKNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

A Valley College student sits in the temporary library; although a limited number of computers are on-hand, other labs available, including the Writing Center, where tutors are also on-hand to help with homework and assignments.

VALLEY FACULTY TAKE PART IN CANCER WALK

CHARLES RANDLE
STAFF WRITER

On a warm Saturday evening, more than 3,000 people, including cancer survivors and supporters, traveled to Woodland Hills to take part in the annual "Light the Night" walk.

Thanks to the efforts of Valley College Secretary of Academic Affairs Erlin Eldridge, and staff, Valley was able to donate more than \$1,700 to help fight cancer and to support Valley Vice President Sandy Mayo, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in November of 2008. She began chemotherapy in January of 2009 and concluded treatment this past August.

Eldridge, who lost her father to Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 1999 explained why she decided to take part in the weekend's walk.

"We did everything we could to raise money, from bake sales to candy bars," she said, while seated on a lawn chair next to the Valley banner at the event.

»TO READ MORE OF THIS STORY
VISIT LAVALLEYSTAR.COM



THINK TRANSFER - A worker helps a student in the Transfer Center.

CENTER STRESSES OPTIONS

Transfer Center remains key in helping Valley students with their long and short-term goals.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

An office comprised of various university flags wall to wall from USC to Cal State Monterey Bay, the center with phones blaring and students waiting is clearly focused on one thing: transfer. With continuing budget cuts, lower admission rates; and stricter enrollment processes, students visit the Career Transfer Center for vital information.

"It's important for students to do research and make sure they are applying to schools that are right for them," Career Transfer Center Director Synthia Saltoun said. "Apply to lots of schools, and apply to

schools other than UCLA and Berkeley."

Among a long list of services the center provides to students are detailed workshops on the entire transfer process, applications, hands-on virtual tours of various universities, deadlines, general education requirements and materials students should have along the way.

"They actually help students getting ready to transfer," criminal justice major Bianca Jacobo said. "They tell them what they need to do... (And) they help you keep your grades up."

The center sees one of its busiest months in October with various workshops including multiple "how to transfer workshops," individual university workshops, and the annual college fair which takes place on the evening of Oct. 22 for those unable to make the much larger

Oct. 27 day workshop consisting of 60 different Universities.

California State Northridge (CSUN) will have a heavy presence at Valley with multiple representatives on campus and a CSUN day information fair taking place on Nov. 5th. Students transferring from Valley to CSUN make up close to 500 of the roughly 1,100 students who will be transferring out of the school this year, according to Saltoun.

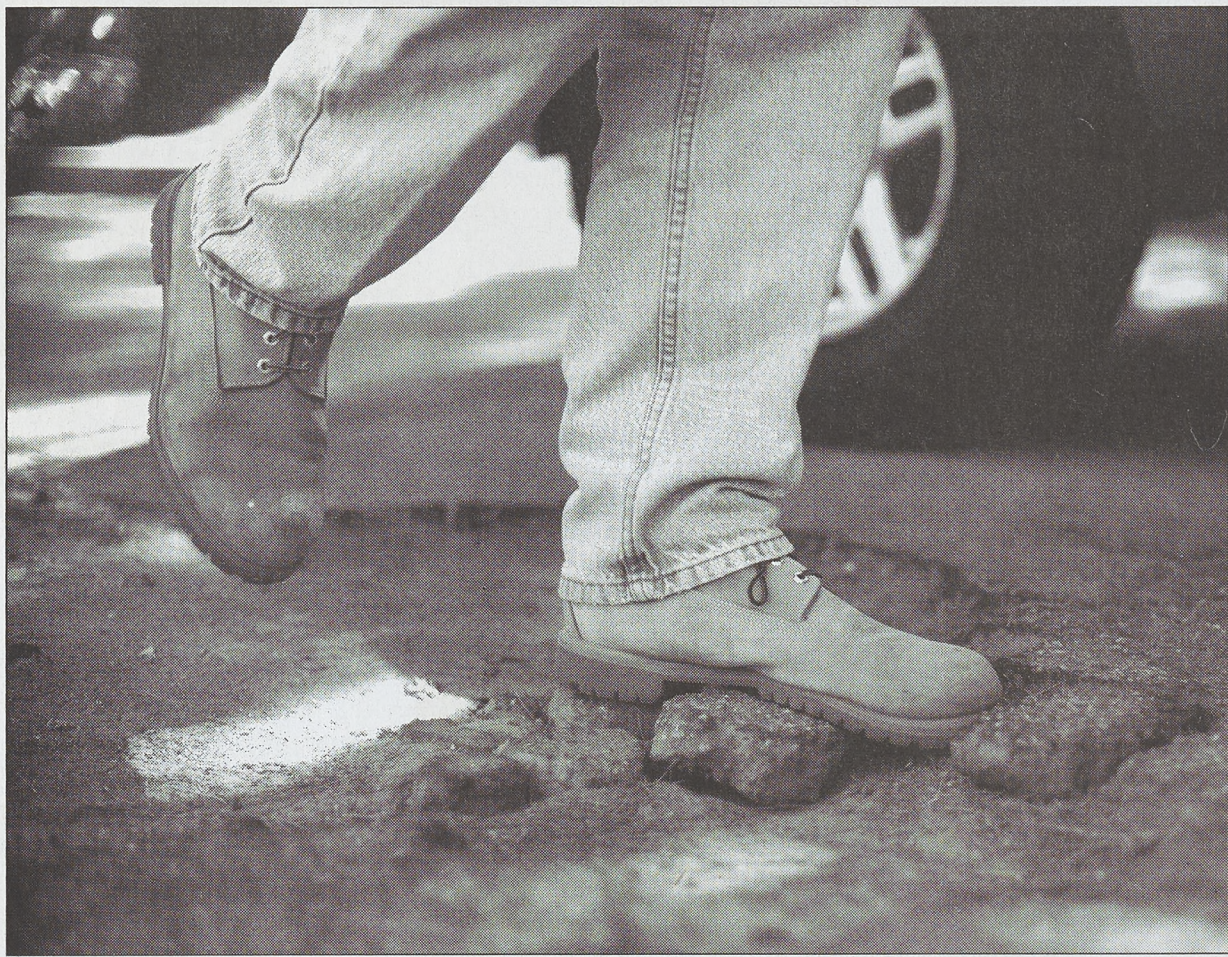
"(The Transfer Center) helped me pick what classes I need... and showed me how to finish faster so I don't waste my time," criminal justice major Jerry Helo said.

Other university workshops in the upcoming months include UC San Diego, University of Southern California, Loyola and the University of California Berkeley. The Transfer Center stresses the

[See TRANSFER, Page 2]

lavalleystar.com

Do you have a Story Idea? » Send us all your ideas to valleystar@lavalleystar.com or join us on Facebook.



BUMPY - A Valley student cautiously maneuvers through the parking lot. The G Lot is notorious for its large potholes.

VALLEY'S ASPHALT POTHOLE JUNGLE

Potholes engulf Valley's campus, with no financial help on the horizon.

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Under the shade of the pine trees lining the south side of Valley College's Parking Lot G, are potholes and broken asphalt that create trip hazards

for Valley's students and wheel alignment hazards for student's cars. In some potholes, shining tree roots bear testimony to the car tires that have traveled the bumpy pathway of this asphalt, pothole jungle.

"It's not much of a surface, if you can even call it a surface," said Valley student Andrea Baker. "I've parked everywhere on it and the whole

thing is broken up. It's pretty bad all over."

Students who park in Lot G must walk the deteriorated pavement, being careful not to twist an ankle, or worse.

"In 2009, I've seen seven reported cases of injuries that have occurred on campus," said Valley Physician Assistant, Sonia Nodal. "Some injuries have occurred from trips on

uneven pavement to injuries from a dance class or just simply tripping on nothing."

In areas of Lot G, discolorations in the asphalt pavement mark where past pothole repairs have been completed. Sixty pound bags of asphalt patch on the back of one electric cart, parked outside the carpenter's shop, reveal the possibility that pavement repairs may presently be going on at Valley.

The college receives no state scheduled maintenance money for parking lot repairs, according to Valley's Director of Campus Facilities, Tom Lopez.

"The state says they (parking lots) don't qualify, because they generate revenue," said Lopez. "We're working to upgrade Valley's pavement through bond money as new building projects go forward on campus. In the meantime, we use maintenance personnel to patch the potholes and if it's really bad, we contract out the bigger repairs."

Weather forecasters are predicting a weather condition known as El Nino, that could mean a wetter than normal winter. With the potential for high levels of rainfall pouring down on already badly deteriorated pavement, the prospect for greater deterioration of Valley's parking lot surfaces is a reality.

"Lot G is still better than a dirt parking lot," said Baker. "But that parking lot could definitely use a resurfacing."

PAC COMBATS BUDGET CUTS

Political Action Committee gets together to show protest to cuts and fee hikes.

A. RAMACHANDRAN
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College's newly formed Political Action Coalition has followed the examples of the American Federation of Teachers along with the protests at UC & CSU campuses by sounding their own battle cry: "Don't wait for someone else to take action, because someone else is waiting for YOU."

PAC met recently at Valley's North Gym with approximately 50 - 70 students in attendance. Associated Student Union President Arthur Minasyan, members of Democracy Matters and Tau Alpha Epsilon were present in a show of solidarity.

A report in the Contra Costa Times stated that California community colleges will receive \$35 of the \$130 million in federal stimulus money designed to compensate for shortfalls.

There is a proposal to make up the difference by increasing the unit cost of tuition from \$26 to \$60 for Fall 2010 at the community college level.

Marcos Perez, the club's ICC rep and political science major quoted from a Legislative Analyst's Report and detailed the club's position.

"The LAVC Political Action Coalition is a group of students that is interested in raising and spreading awareness of the student fee increas-

es and proposed increases, as well as the \$812 million in budget cuts to California community colleges," said Perez. "We are also opposed to the 30 percent fee hikes to Cal State universities this year alone, 10 percent to the University of California, and the various faculty furloughs and reductions in classes and services available to students."

Intern Jessica Gallardo rallied those in attendance by saying, "It affects me. I want to do something about it and get others involved."

PAC wants students to hand-carry the messages of protest to all levels of university education. To this end, the club fashioned a yellow petition card and will seek supporting signatures from students to end fee hikes and budget cuts to the community college, Cal State and UC systems.

"We will then take these cards to all of our [campus] visits to the universities where we want to transfer and the offices of local state legislators," said Perez. "These individuals need to see how many students are opposed to having the state government attempt to balance the state budget on the backs of the students."

PAC will also host a rally later this semester featuring faculty union leaders, teachers, local politicians, as well as local bands and other speakers on higher education issues and how it should NOT be sacrificed to save the state money.

PAC meets on alternating Mondays beginning Oct. 12. Students can obtain more information on the Web site at <http://www.standup4cc.com>.

The path to Prestige

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Lisa Holcomb
O Magazine, Advertising Sales
Graziadio School Peer Connection, President
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TRANSFER

Continued from page 1

urgency to visit the center, workshops, and club days they attend to get information out to the students.

This week the center will be sending out paperwork to a variety of different individual

classrooms and to the Inter Club Council Meetings taking place on campus according to the transfer center

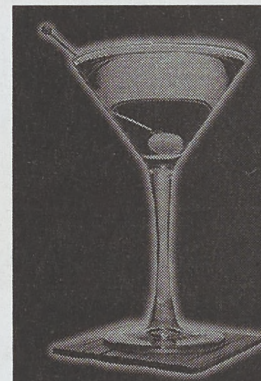
For more information please visit the Career Transfer Center located in the administration building. The center guarantees someone will be there to help with or without an appointment.

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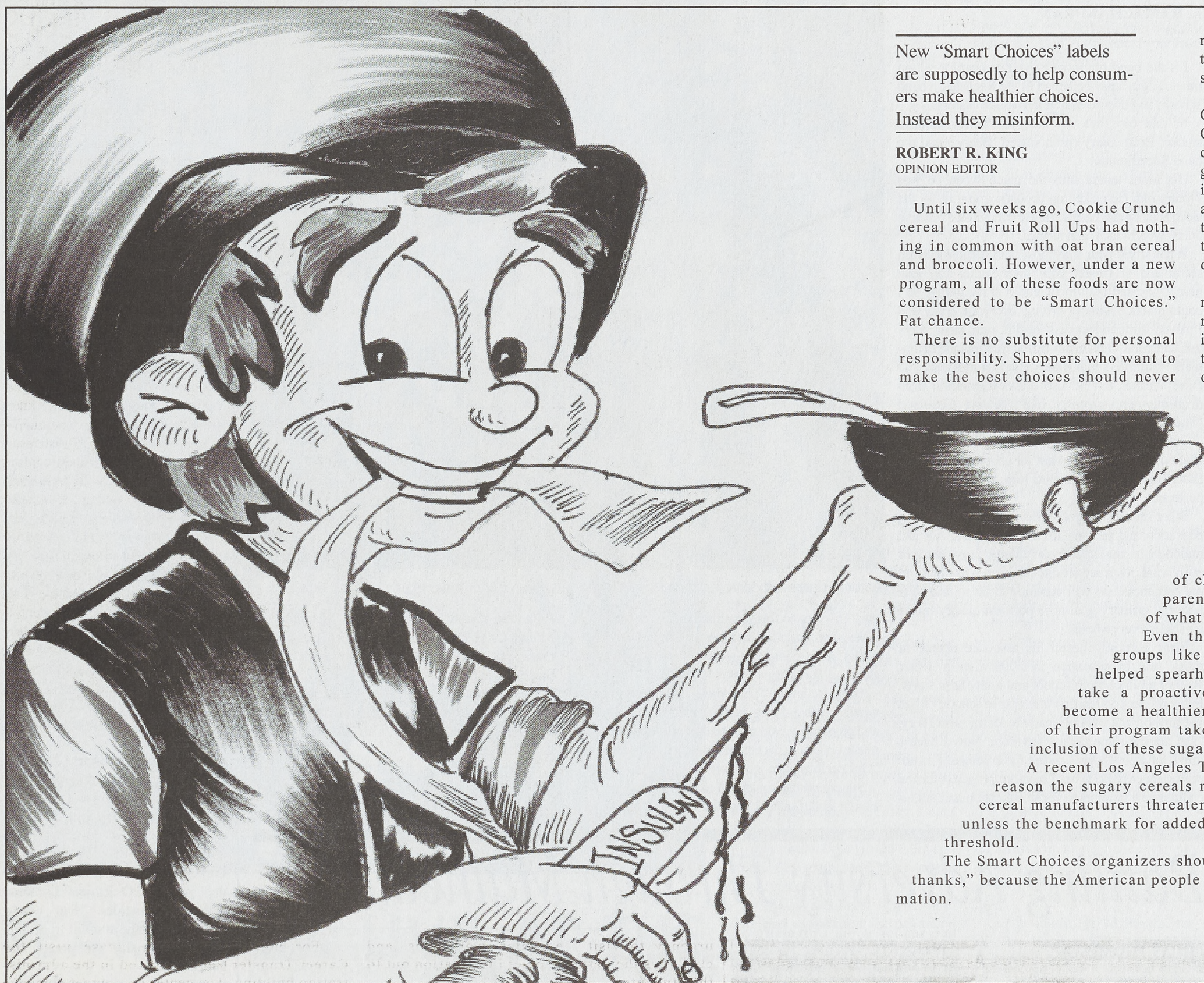
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Consumers Should Make Their Own Smart Choices



New "Smart Choices" labels are supposedly to help consumers make healthier choices. Instead they misinform.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

Until six weeks ago, Cookie Crunch cereal and Fruit Roll Ups had nothing in common with oat bran cereal and broccoli. However, under a new program, all of these foods are now considered to be "Smart Choices." Fat chance.

There is no substitute for personal responsibility. Shoppers who want to make the best choices should never

rely on the front of the box to help them make their decisions.

According to the new Smart Choices program, Cookie Crunch cereal – and all other cereals with no more than 12 grams of added sugar per serving – will now be labeled with a green check mark indicating to health-conscious shoppers that they are making a wise decision.

While food packaging cannot lie, hyperbolic statements run amok. All food packaging is required to list nutritional information somewhere on the package. This is where consumers can look to determine if their selection is truly a smart choice.

With the Center for Disease Control reporting 43,000 new cases of Type 1 (juvenile) diabetes each year as well as a rise in the numbers of children with Type 2 diabetes, parents need to be especially aware of what their children eat.

Even though it is a good thing that groups like The Keystone Center – who helped spearhead the initiative – want to take a proactive approach to help America become a healthier place to live, the credibility of their program takes a major belly flop with the inclusion of these sugary substances.

A recent Los Angeles Times article reported that the reason the sugary cereals made the list was because the cereal manufacturers threatened to pull out of the program unless the benchmark for added sugar was set at the 12 gram threshold.

The Smart Choices organizers should have said, "Thanks, but no thanks," because the American people don't need any more misinformation.

EDUARDO HERRERA | VALLEY STAR

Social Networks Want to be Your New Friend

Social networking websites like Facebook and Twitter help people around the world connect with other people.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

A recent study found that time spent social networking has grown 93 percent since 2006 according to Netpop.com. Although it may take a lot of time out of our busy lives, it helps us keep in touch with friends and makes communicating with others less complicated.

These sites might come in handy when there is no other form of communication available. They make it easier to get a hold of family or friends when there is no other way of getting in contact with the person.

You can pick the site that suits you best. Whether you like updating people on what you're doing every minute, or sharing information on your personal profile, they all offer different ways to communicate with family and friends.

"I think it's a great way to communicate with friends and other people without having to do much," said Valley College Student Glen Viatoro.

Well-known sites like Facebook and Twitter, have made an impact around the world and made several changes in modern social networks.

Facebook has more than 150 million users while Twitter has around 4.43 million users according to The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. As each site begins to bring in more members, they expand world-wide and gain supporters to reach a greater

number of people.

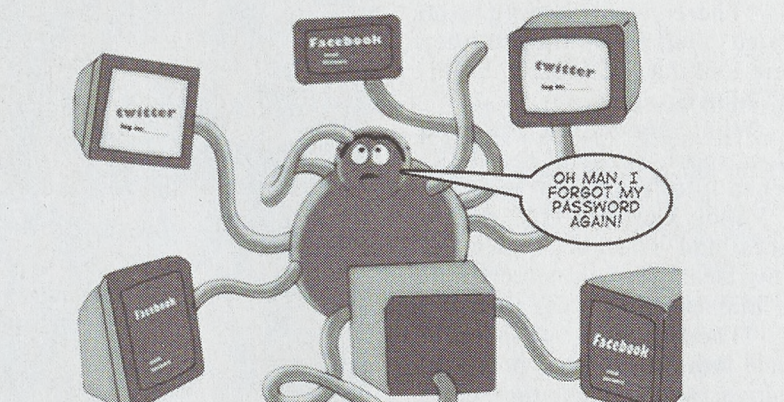
Others may use these sites to find out information involving news or to find out what their favorite celebrity is doing at the moment.

While some people are getting the news from TV, radio or newspapers 49 percent of people regularly read the news on the internet according to the Pew survey.

As for tweets from your favorite celebrity you can get an idea of what they are thinking at the moment. "Just watched Hannah Montana with my 7-year-old. We had wildly divergent experiences of the movie," said actor Ben Stiller via Twitter.

If people use these sites for pure entertainment purposes and not for the wrong reasons they can take advantage of the perks they have to make life a bit easier. Although it does tend to help avoid real life social situations, it's a great way to keep people updated on your daily life.

IN A SECRET DUNGEON, A COMBINATION **TERRORIST-INTERNET PIRATE** SCHEMES TO DESTROY THE WORLD.....



....BUT FEAR NOT! BY CONNECTING TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB, THE INTERNET SPIDER WILL STOP HIM!

LEONARDO ALANNIS | VALLEY STAR

Social Networks can be Quite Dangerous

While social networking websites have their perks, they can be manipulated by people with bad intentions.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

It's not a new development that the misinformed, un-researched, spelling and grammar-ignorant people of this world have always felt a need to interject their opinions and "fact based arguments" to anyone who would listen. The only difference of today, this minute and very second is that the multitudes of informants are unnervingly equipped to reach millions.

According to the Huffington Post a recent poll was created on Facebook that asked the question, "Should Obama be killed?" A reported 731 people were able to answer "Yes," "No," "Maybe," and "Yes, if he cuts my health care," to the question before it was removed by the secret service according to the Associated Press.

"We take these things very seriously," said Darrin Blackford, a Secret Service spokesman.

Upon visiting Twitter, Myspace, Facebook or any other social networking Web sites, millions of people fulfill the need to tweet, post, and comment on their relationships, daily routines, and give their opinions on any subject matter. The only problem with these harmless posts lies in a forum made for self-glory, exploited to promote misinformation, suffocation of morals, and violence.

In a recent article from the Washington Post, it is reported that Twitter could be used by terrorist groups in gathering intelligence helpful in organizing a "catastrophic" attack through unmonitored communication via Twitter according to a military intelligence report obtained by the Freedom of American Scientist. Aside from the more serious dangers

of the tweets and posts is an inherent threat to our society's "moral compass." According to a University of Southern California study, the human brain is unable to fully process the suffering and anguish a news story can create before being "bombarded" by the next bulletin.

"If things are happening too fast, you may not ever fully experience emotions about other people's psychological states and that would have implications for your morality," said researcher Mary Helen Immordino-Yang. In correlation with the numbing of morals comes the constant incoherent and erroneous use of the English language, which has become this generation's primary use of communication.

"It's a double-edged sword," said Daniel Davis, a Valley College history student. "If you have friends who don't live in this area you can communicate with them but, you get the benefits and the defects."

Unfortunately these discussions are usually uninformed and are slowly killing genuine communication by those who think before they tweet.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for a letter to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

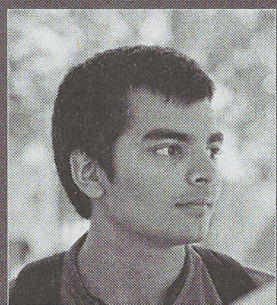
VALLEY VIEW

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SOCIAL NETWORKING?



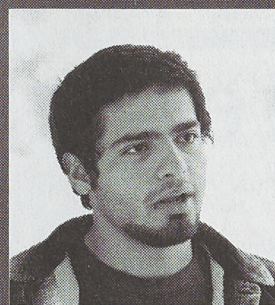
I mainly use them because I hate the phone and I have a choice.

- SAMANTHA MAZZOLA
POLITICAL SCIENCE



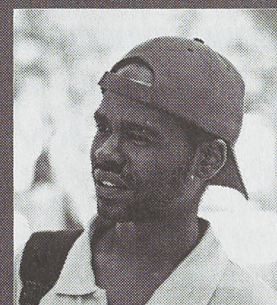
I'm careful what I put online because my family shouldn't see what's on there.

- AYMAN KHALED
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING



I use sites like that but, I'd rather call someone and talk to them in person.

- FERNANDO HERRERA
UNDECIDED



You can't just post anything because you never know who's linked in.

- JOHN COLLINS
BROADCASTING

ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

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Events**Now until Dec. 8.**

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Tues. from 10-11 a.m. in Bungalow 49

Now until Dec. 10

Parent & Baby Sessions for Infants (not walking)
Thurs. from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. in Bungalow 49.
Contact the Family Resource Center at (818) 778-5612 or huffgf@lavc.edu

October 8

Town hall meeting on the LAVC Master Plan
Thursday from 1-2:30 p.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria Conference Room. Contact Maggie Lopez at (818) 947-2321.

LAVC Blood Drive
Student Health Center
Thursday, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Monarch Hall. Please sign up online at www.givelife.org (sponsor: "LAVC"). For more information, call (818) 947-2918.

October 9

2010 Census Training and Conference in Downtown Los Angeles. The Leaders at the California Endowment at 1000 N. Alameda Street in Los Angeles. Contact Catherine Han Montoya at Montoya@civilrights.org

October 10

"Meet the Pros" presented by The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation, the California Media Statewide CTE Programs, IDEAS and the LAVC Media Arts Department from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at LAVC's Monarch Hall.

Additional LAVC Info
LAVC 60th Anniv. Web Site is Online. Visit www.lavc.edu/60

Check out the 2009-2010 LAVC Arts Season Calendar!
For information on arts academic programs and events at LAVC, visit <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/>.

Sign Up for AlertU emergency alerts at <http://www.lavc.edu/studentlinks.html> with your phone number.

CSU Los Angeles Rep. Tuesday, October 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The LAVC Student Health Center has information about H1N1 Flu. Visit the Campus Health Information Web page at www.lavc.edu/campusnews/health-info.html.

LACCD Students paid internship opportunities
Visit www.laccdinterns.org or, contact Kaisha Jones at (213) 996-2533 or at Kaisha.Jones@build-LACCD.org.

Think Transfer!

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How to Transfer Workshops Mondays @ 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays @ 1 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshops Wednesdays @ 1pm and Thursdays 5:30pm

CSU Northridge Rep Monday, October 12 3pm-7pm

CSU Los Angeles Rep Tuesday, October 13 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For further information and sign-up for the above activities contact the Career/Transfer Center in Administration 126 or call (818) 947-2646

Brian Biery Strives for Superhuman Grooves

A. RAMACHANDRAN
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

It's the band origin story you've heard a billion times. A guy answers an ad in the Recycler; a band is born, and tries to march into music history.

In this case, it's the story of Valley College student Brian Biery (pronounced 'Beery') and the band Superhuman.

His mom taught him the piano when he was 7-years-old. He picked up acoustic guitar at 14, the electric at 16 and bass at 18. He even took a crack at brass, woodwinds, and strings.

What stuck with him most was getting a drum set at age 11 (insert your own Spinal Tap joke here). "My dad built me a studio in the garage so I could practice without driving everyone crazy and I played through sickness, health, rain, sleet, snow and sunshine." His drum influences include drummers' drummers like Buddy Rich, Jean Krupa and Dave Weckel, but he also draws inspiration from drummer/percussionists like Stewart Copeland (The Police) and Neil Peart (Rush). Biery also cites Tommy Lee of Motley Crue as his model for on-stage showmanship (but not for off-stage behavior). Biery says Weckel inspired him to strive beyond perfection.

What sets Biery apart is his interest in acquiring education and passing it onto others and not just making it in music. "It doesn't matter how I teach or even what, it's a rewarding career that has brought me happiness and will continue to do so; but right now my primary goal is to perform quality music on stages everywhere."

Biery earnestly began his associate degree in music and in education in 2006 after a nearly 10-year absence from school and a few false starts. Biery reflects on his first attempts at school, "I had life turmoil and I wasn't ready to learn," said Biery. "I'm not the same person anymore. Now I have a thirst for knowledge I didn't have before. I'm not saying it's easy now, but I'm more prepared for the endurance it requires to get an education and gradu-



ROCK ATTITUDE AND HAIR - BIERY TOSSES HIS HAIR BACK WHILE ALVA THROWS UP THE ROCK HORNS

ate." He plans to transfer, complete his bachelor's in music and education and then obtain a doctorate.

His professional and stagecraft philosophies are simple, "Think big and you'll be big."

Biery believes, "The whole point of a show is whether a band can surpass their music visually and physically...you need to move around, feel your music and show the crowd you're into it," said Biery. "Our performance is our product."

Superhuman's songs call to mind bands like The Living End, Suicidal Tendencies, Judas Priest, The

Ramones, Creed, Bad Company, Metallica and Motley Crue. Even if none of this is your kind of music, you still have to respect the power and the range of this band.

Their next show is Oct. 9 at the Rendezvous at 22505 8th St, Newhall, CA, 91321-2929. The cover charge is \$5 for patrons 21+. Call (661) 255-7833 for more information.

Listen to the songs, friend the band, and make bookings through <http://www.myspace.com/superhumanmusic>.

Battling Adversity Through Mathematics

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

In a mathematics course with Professor Mauricio Marroquin one thing is certain: there is no place to hide. His unique style of teaching and keen sense of observation frustrates even the most professional "texter" and most savvy classroom agitator. Though unorthodox as he addresses each of his students on a daily basis strolling throughout the classroom, his intent is not to embarrass, but to "know" his students and their individual goals.

"I'm always learning from my students, I'm always asking questions...not only about math but about their cultures," Marroquin said.

Born in El Salvador, Marroquin began his teaching career as an elementary and high school teacher with specialization in mathematics and physics. He furthered his education at the Universidad de Costa Rica where he earned two undergraduate degrees in mathematics before returning to El Salvador. Shortly after, Marroquin began teaching at the Universidad Nacional de El Salvador. He then wrote two University textbooks and co-authored a popular high school textbook of the time.

Marroquin's educational chase would not stop in El Salvador. He soon traveled to the United States to attend grad-

uate school at the University of Kansas. After earning his master's degree Marroquin could finally return to his roots. He continued teaching part-time at the Universidad Nacional and full time at the Universidad Centroamericana. His career looked promising until tragedy struck.

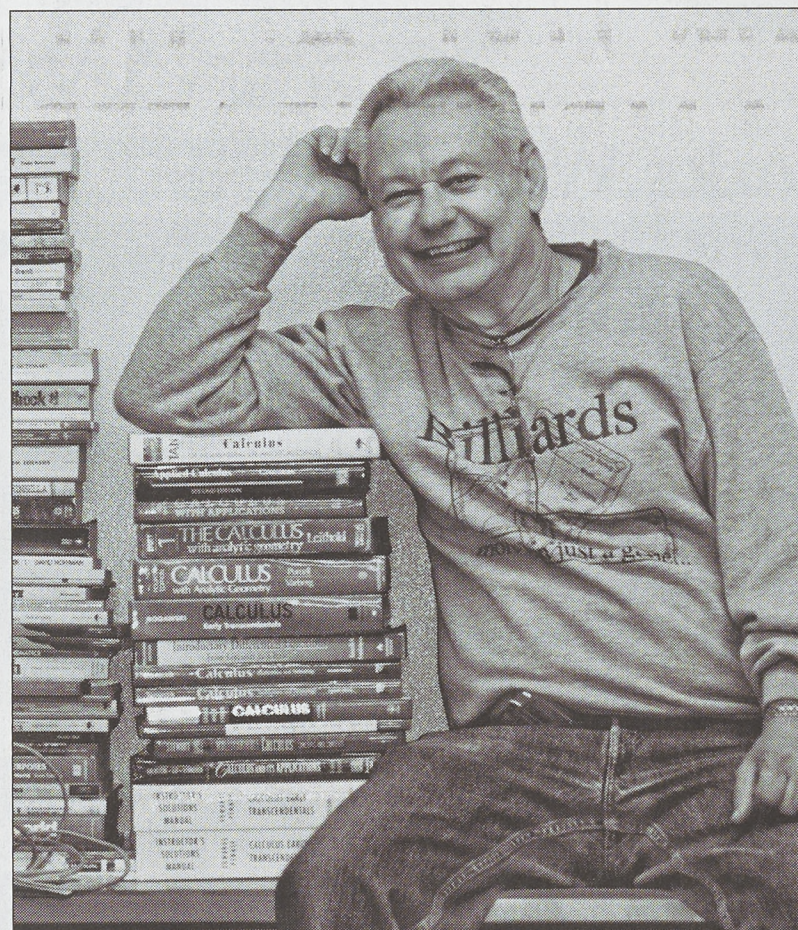
During the '70s, tensions grew in the small country of El Salvador that resulted in a civil war. There were nearly 70,000 civilian murders during the 12-year war and the preceding period of conflict. This same violence also claimed one of Marroquin's brothers—also a university professor. Marroquin, after suffering the same ideological persecution and tragic events that surrounded his family, fled to the United States in 1980.

"There were people who hinted (that) I was the one they were looking for...not my brother," Marroquin said.

What Marroquin intended as a short stay in the U.S., turned into 26 years of teaching at Valley College. His experiences and straightforwardness show clearly in his expectations for himself and for his students.

"There are a lot of students who have the potential and waste it, because they don't have the work habits...they are very smart, but don't know how to learn," Marroquin said.

Fall of 2010 will be Professor Marroquin's final semester before he retires. He plans to spend time with his two daughters,



ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

FEELING LIVELY - MATH PROFESSOR MAURICIO MARROQUIN

ters, travel, continue learning and possibly return permanently to the place that once gave him so much sadness.

"His many years as a mathematics instructor at LAVC are greatly appreciated. I am certain he will be missed and I am also certain that many students benefited from his able instruction throughout his years here at Valley," said Valley President

Sue Carleo.

Though the departure from his homeland so many years ago clearly torments him to this day, the seasoned instructor holds no regrets about where life has taken him as he continues on his path.

"I think it's time for me to go," Marroquin said. "As long as you do your contribution to society...it doesn't matter where."

YOU CAN'T SPELL OPPORTUNITIES WITHOUT EOPS AND TRIO

CHARLES RANDLE
STAFF WRITER

For many students, going to college is more than just a personal objective. It's a stepping stone to achieving the "American Dream." This is especially true for first-generation college students.

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and TRiO Student Support Services exist to assist financially or educationally disadvantaged students with their short-term academic and long-term professional goals.

EOPS is state-funded and offers resources to full-time students taking at least 12 units with demonstrated educational and financial needs. The EOPS services include tutoring, academic or career counselling, childcare related grants, and book vouchers to help with costs incurred when attending college. The program staff includes three full time counselors and two tutors. "Students get quality counselling and a connection is formed between student and counselor," said Dr. Sherri A. Rodriguez, Associate Dean of EOPS.

Federally funded TRiO/Student Support Services also provides a wide array of benefits. Many of the different services offered by TRiO mirror those offered by EOPS "We can serve the same students, and very often do," said TRiO Project Director Barbara Schneider. "Our whole goal is to get the student to graduate and transfer on time," she continued.

There are a few differences between the two programs. TRiO doesn't offer book vouchers or childcare services. It does offer field trips that allow students to explore Cal State and UC campuses; last semester TRiO participants made trips to Cal State Fullerton and UC campuses like Berkeley, Davis, and Merced.

TRiO also holds weekly study skill workshops on transferring, resume writing, goal setting, time management, and note taking. The workshops serve to prepare students for success after transferring to a four-year institution.

"TRiO has been very flexible and supportive with my busy full time work schedule," said Amada Sambrano a first-generation college student. She plans to take the skills TRiO helped her hone to California State University at Northridge (CSUN) to study business management.

EOPS is in Campus Center 116 (across from the cafeteria). Hours are Mon. & Tues. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wed. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Their phone number is (818) 947-2432.

The Trio Office is located adjacent to the cafeteria building. Hours are Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Their phone number is (818) 947-2487.

La Raza Promotes Campus Unity at Valley

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

They sit in a circle under the shade of the monumental trees in the quad. Commanding the attention of every one around them, softly, working themselves to a high loud clap. That's how members of La Raza Student Association (RSA) come to order, it's called the "unity clap."

"La Raza" is a Spanish phrase for "the race" or the "the people." The club's mission is to meet the social, cultural,

political, and academic needs of students on campus.

Because Francisco Damian Aviles, 19, is concerned with current issues he decided to come to the meeting for hope. "Kids today don't have guidance," said Aviles. "It's hard for any minority - black, Asian and even white - because it all comes down to socioeconomic," he continued. "We're all in the same boat, we are fighting, we might have different problems but the struggle is all the same."

Although the organization is new

to the Valley College campus, La Raza already has branches in high schools, community colleges, and universities all over the country.

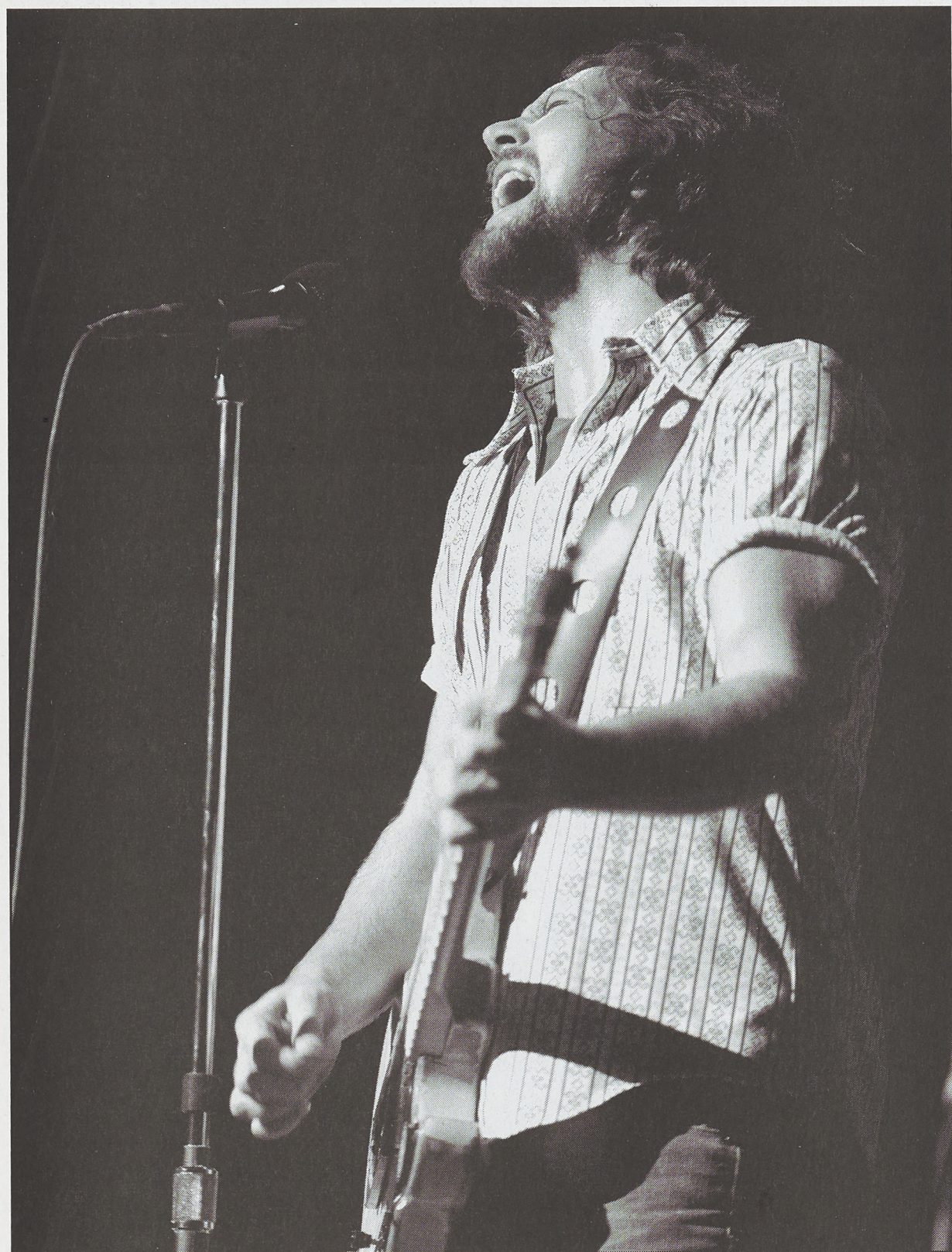
RSA has no official titles for its members, according to Samuel Lara, "This is essential to make everyone feel equal." Even the structure of how La Raza conducts meetings promotes equality. Everyone sits in a circle instead of classroom style rows. The circle is done because "there is no hierarchy," according to Lara.

La Raza supports political issues and

groups, and organizes events to bring awareness, education and culture to the Valley College campus.

Erica Friend, 23, an arts major, wants La Raza to be more than just a club. "I don't want to be seen as a club, but as a respected student organization because we do more than just meet, we provide a family sense for members." Friend said.

La Raza Student Association meets Wednesday and Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in Foreign Language 111. Their telephone number is (818) 947-2385.



STAND AND DELIVER - Eddie Vedder and Pearl Jam rocked the Gibson Amphitheater during their 150-minute set.

PEARL JAM LIVE AT THE GIBSON AMPHITHEATER

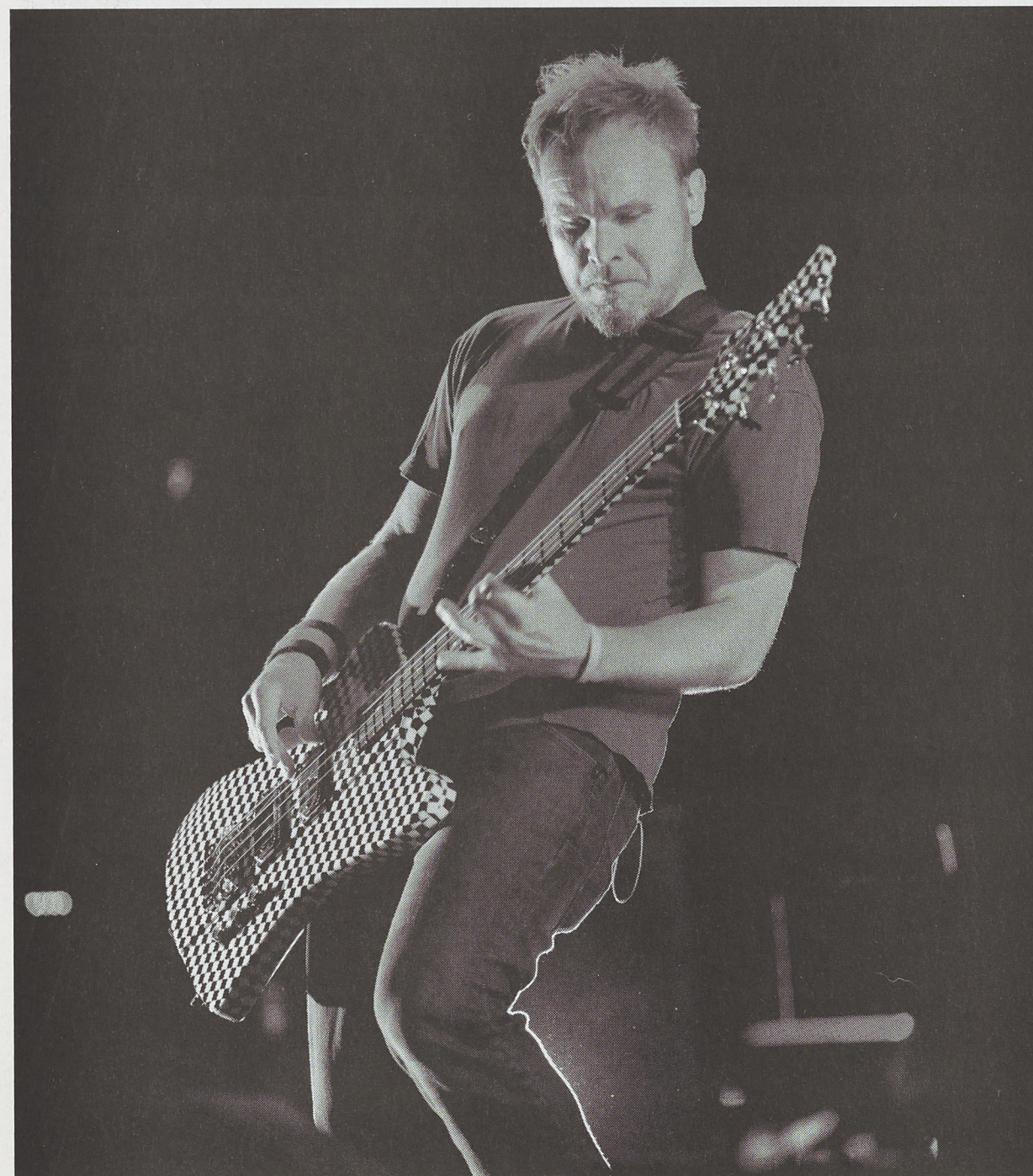
SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

Pearl Jam wasn't just playing the music. They were feeling it and delivered their set with purpose, conviction, and hope. This rang true through the entire show and

became more poignant near the end of their second encore when they played one of their signature songs, "Alive." The stage lights lit up the faces of the audience and band and audience sang and moved to the lyrics in unison. Vedder made a point of letting the audience know

that there was something to be said and celebrated in the fact that, "We are still alive." The audience received and appreciated the message.

» TO READ THE REST OF THIS STORY VISIT LAVALLEYSTAR.COM



IN TUNE - Bassist Jeff Ament and company celebrated their new release, "Backspacer" going to number one.

A BIT OF TINSELTOWN COMES TO VALLEY

Valley College holds annual screening of student videos and films

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Filmmakers, friends, faculty, and family filled the theater arts building on Oct. 3. Moments before the show, the corridors were alive with excitement as the student filmmakers swapped stories and offered comments to the college's KVCM Radio. As the curtain call drew closer, the audience and Valley's student filmmakers entered the theatre waiting for the lights to go down and for the films and videos of Valley College students to fill the big screen.

Media Arts 101 student, Mario Williams came to see his video, "The Final Epiphany," on the big screen. Williams worked in animation, but came back to Valley to learn new skills. "I want to understand new technologies and eventually produce my own films," said Williams. "I'm impressed by the overall quality of teachers at Valley. They're just great."

By show time, most of the theatre seats had filled. Media Arts Department Chairman Eric Swelstad welcomed the audience. Then he introduced Media Arts Student Committee (MASC) President, Patrick Clement, who spoke about the importance of community for filmmakers and lauded the department. ASU President Arthur Minasyan was also on hand to congratulate the filmmakers and stress the social and professional importance of the Arts.

The screenings began with Swelstad introducing the advanced student films. These two to five-minute films from the Cinema 123 and 124 classes were the product of advanced production work. Subject matter included narrative, experimental, or documentary genres. Filmmakers shot on either digital-video or 16 mm film and used Final Cut Pro to edit digitally, add music and sound effects, and composite their films.

"In the advanced cinema classes, students collaborate with the

music and art departments in their projects," said Associate Professor Arantxa Rodriguez.

Shown next were Cinema 101 films, introduced by Professor Joe Daccurso. This class shot one-and-a-half minute public service announcements on the school's 16 mm film equipment. After shooting, students transferred their films to digital format. Except for the transferring to digital format, these students crewed on each other's films and completed all of their post-production work at Valley College.

Rodriguez introduced the Media Arts 101 videos from Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 as the last group for the evening. The selections were one-and-a-half minute in length. The filmmakers shot their narratives, experimental, or documentary works, in mini-DV and used digital post-production applications.

"Pursuit of HeArt," was Ryan Gabriel's one-minute Media Arts 101 video project. "I thought it would be cool to go for your dreams and goals in this project," said Gabriel. "Ultimately, I'd like to be a writer, producer, and director. At the core of it, I just want to tell stories."

Valley's Media Arts department will also present "Meet the Pros," next Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009 in Monarch Hall. The event will feature several half-hour sessions to meet, pose questions and get answers from entertainment industry professionals about various aspects of the business through an arrangement with the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, IDEAS and industry union partners.

The 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. session will feature Art Department Session with art directors, illustrators, set designers, make up artists, and more.

The 1:30 to 4 p.m. session will feature Production Session with writers, directors, producers, music and radio pros, and others.

Sign-in will begin at 9 a.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Additional information is available at meettheprosmedia@aol.com

Barrymore and Page's 'Whip It' is More Than Laughing Gas

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

Drew Barrymore's fantastic directorial debut, "Whip It," is a glorious romp through the underground female roller derby scene. In it, Barrymore combines what she does best on screen: sweet girl next door and unabashed riot girl.

Ellen Page plays Bliss Cavendar, a restless teenager looking to expand her horizons beyond the beauty pageants her mother makes her participate in and the non-existent Boden, Texas social scene. On a road trip to Austin, Cavendar and a friend attend a roller derby match. This is where Bliss discovers the outlet she's been seeking. This unfortunately causes tension within her family and raises post-feminism and generation gap issues.

Barrymore deserves credit for creating a work that is able to cross so many different genres while maintaining a certain cohesion with the film's theme. "Whip It" could be a family drama and a coming-of-age film as easily as it could be a sports flick or comedy. The film needs to incorporate all these elements to make a solid film. Tapping into roller derby also gives the movie an original and inspired voice as it takes on all the overwrought alternative sports

The director makes moments on film, not just scenes. Barrymore delivers great panorama shots that entice the audience. The viewers feel as if they are at a dirty, dusty underground roller derby rink having the time of their lives, not just watching it. This also makes the characters and their outlandish derby personas more relatable.

The automatic assumption for casual moviegoers is that Page is just on autopilot and coasting on the strength of what she's did with "Juno." All that Juno MacGuff and Bliss Cavendar have in common is that Page plays them both well. The actress gives subtlety and layers to Cavendar that show genuine growth in the main character.

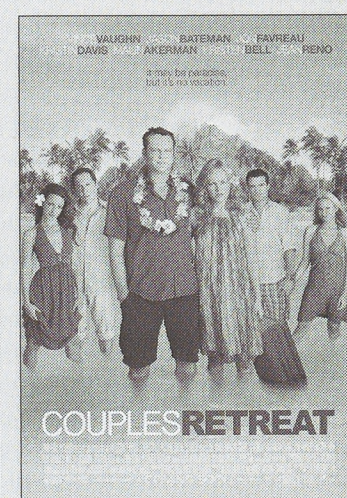
Kristen Wiig plays a complementary role as the Hurl Scouts team captain. It's nice to see Wiig in a role that doesn't seem oddly familiar to a character she might play on "Saturday Night Live." While this might be her first foray into drama, there's hope that she is not a one-trick pony. Zoë Bell and Eve give the film the needed muscle behind the girl power Barrymore wanted to instill, while Juliette Lewis adds edge.

Marcia Gay Harden and Daniel Stern provide contrast and anchor the drama side of the film with aplomb. Watching Stern play off of Page displays family at its warmest, while you can feel the tension when Page and Harden go head to head.

Comedy, drama, sports, and girls in fishnets all rolled into one, "Whip It" is much more than a guilty pleasure.

THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



COUPLES RETREAT

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TOP 5 PLAYING:

- ZOMBIELAND: \$25M+
- CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS: \$17M+
- TOY STORY 1&2: \$13M+
- THE INVENTION OF LYING: \$7M+
- SURROGATES: \$7M+

JOHN HUGHES TRIBUTE:

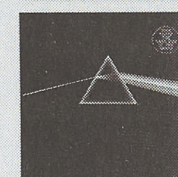
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- TERMINATOR: SARAH CONNOR CHRONICLES - SEASON 2
- BIG BANG THEORY: SEASON 2
- IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA: SEASON 4

MUSIC



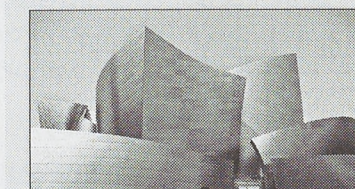
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CONCERTS



- LA PHILHARMONICS: OCT. 8-11
WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL
- BLINK 182: OCT. 10
HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM
- JASON MRAZ: OCT. 10
HOLLYWOOD BOWL
- WISIN & YANDEL: OCT. 10
STAPLES CENTER
- SUNNY DAY REAL ESTATE: OCT. 11
HENRY FONDA THEATRE
- BOB DYLAN: OCT. 13-15
HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM

MONARCHS GET SERIOUS IN CONFERENCE OPENERS

Valley football goes 2-0 in their division openers against Santa Monica and West Los Angeles Colleges.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming into the Monarchs' first two conference games of the season the team had fallen three straight, losing by a combined total of 122 points. With a losing season, on their heels and the weight of the Valley athletics leaning in on returning head coach Jim Fenwick, the team strung together back-to-back conference wins in their fourth and fifth games of the season.

"Everything is slowly but surely coming together," Fenwick said. "The structure of the program is coming together...we're staying on course."

In their second home game of the season against Santa Monica College, the Monarchs would lose every battle on the offensive side of the ball with 97 less yards than the opposing Corsairs. The difference would come in end zone appearances as the Monarchs snuck by 34-30 after giving up three touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

"Every week's going to be a challenge for us," Fenwick said. "We don't want to take steps back."

After a 13-12 halftime score in favor of the Monarchs against West Los Angeles College, the team came together in the second

half outscoring the Oilers 21-8 in the third and fourth quarters of the game. The young, but improving, offense went 4-4 in their red zone to touchdown ratio with a combined total of 423 offensive yards including 323 Bret Visciglia passing yards.

Touchdowns included two by receiver Josh Stangby in the second and fourth quarter of the game, a run by running back Geri Morrison, a 12-yard completion into the end zone by receiver Travion Odom and a 1-yard run from Bret Visciglia.

Though injury prone, the Valley defense is also quickly improving giving up significantly less points while causing a total of five fumbles in the past two games. Despite the little things seemingly working better for the Valley squad, the team explains nothing drastic has changed.

"We stayed with what we know, we repped it...(and) simplified the game," Defensive Lineman Coach Julio Gramajo said. "We are dealing with kids who are coming in as freshmen and are having to grow really fast."

The team will be able to celebrate their victories a little longer as they approach their mid-season BYE week. The team will use the additional week to work on technique and fundamentals along with getting an early start in preparing for their upcoming game against the East Los Angeles College Huskies, according to Coach Fenwick.

"The kids are beginning to trust in the system...(and) believe in the system," Gramajo said.



CAN'T STOP ME! - Travion Odom, Valley College's wide receiver, makes a daring run for the endzone.

MLS PLAYOFF RACE HEATS UP

The L.A. Galaxy have clinched a playoff spot and Chivas USA are in position to do the same.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

With only three weeks left in the Major League Soccer (MLS) regular season, the Los Angeles Galaxy have secured a berth in the MLS Cup playoffs. On the other side of the city, the Chivas USA are within striking distance of the Western Division leaders.

The Galaxy currently hold first place in the west with 44 points, tied with the Houston Dynamo. Chivas is tied for third place with the Seattle Sounders only three points back, but the Goats have two more games to play than both teams in front of them. Three points are awarded for a win, one for a draw, and no points are awarded for a loss.

The top two teams in the Eastern and Western divisions automatically qualify for the playoffs and the four other teams with the highest point totals, regardless of division, also qualify for the eight-team tournament.

"I think most games this year we've competed

in the right way throughout 90 minutes," said Galaxy captain Landon Donovan in an interview on Mlsnet.com after the Galaxy beat the Chicago Fire Friday night, putting them in position to secure a playoff berth.

"And now we've got almost everyone healthy and playing well," added Donovan, who scored the game-winning goal against Chicago.

The defending champion Columbus Crew lead the MLS and Eastern Division with 46 points and three games to play while Chicago currently sits in second place in the East with 41 points and two games to go.

This year the MLS expansion team, Seattle Sounders, who are partly owned by actor/comedian Drew Carey, have 41 points a little ahead of the Colorado Rapids who have 40 points, with two games left for both.

The New England Revolution round out the current top eight with 38 points with three games remaining.

D.C. United (36 points, two games remaining), Toronto FC (35 points, three games remaining), and Real Salt Lake (34 points, three games remaining) have the best opportunities to enter the top eight while the New York Red Bulls are the only team in the 15-team league to be mathematically eliminated from the playoffs, a testament to the league's parity.

The Real Sports President

President Barack Obama shows why he is the real deal when it comes to sports talk and jump shots.

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

It usually takes years for the media to sculpt an image of the president that burns itself in the general public's perception. We have Bill Clinton, the saxophone-playing Oval Office Casanova who didn't inhale, even once. Then there's "Dubya," the Harvard and Yale alumni whose jet fighter jumpsuit matches the dunce cap and perma-grin perfectly. But for a second, forget the "Change we can believe in," or the whole healthcare thing, President Barack Obama is not only the leader of the free world; he is the new president of sports.

We've seen presidents throughout history in athletic wear for the occasional photo-op. Remember Clinton jogged, once, and while Bush said that his love for bicycling was strong, the brand new bike with the price tag on it said otherwise. Fortunately we have a president that not only is a legitimate sports fan, but name checks the White Sox and derides the Cubs whenever possible.

How many presidents have been in pick-up games at Chapel Hill or not maligned for being on the wrong side of a shirts and skins game? To add to his credit, he has a deadly jumper and can talk smack as well as reciting constitutional law. So what makes this president more legitimate than past presidents trying to cash in on a feel good story? Authenticity.

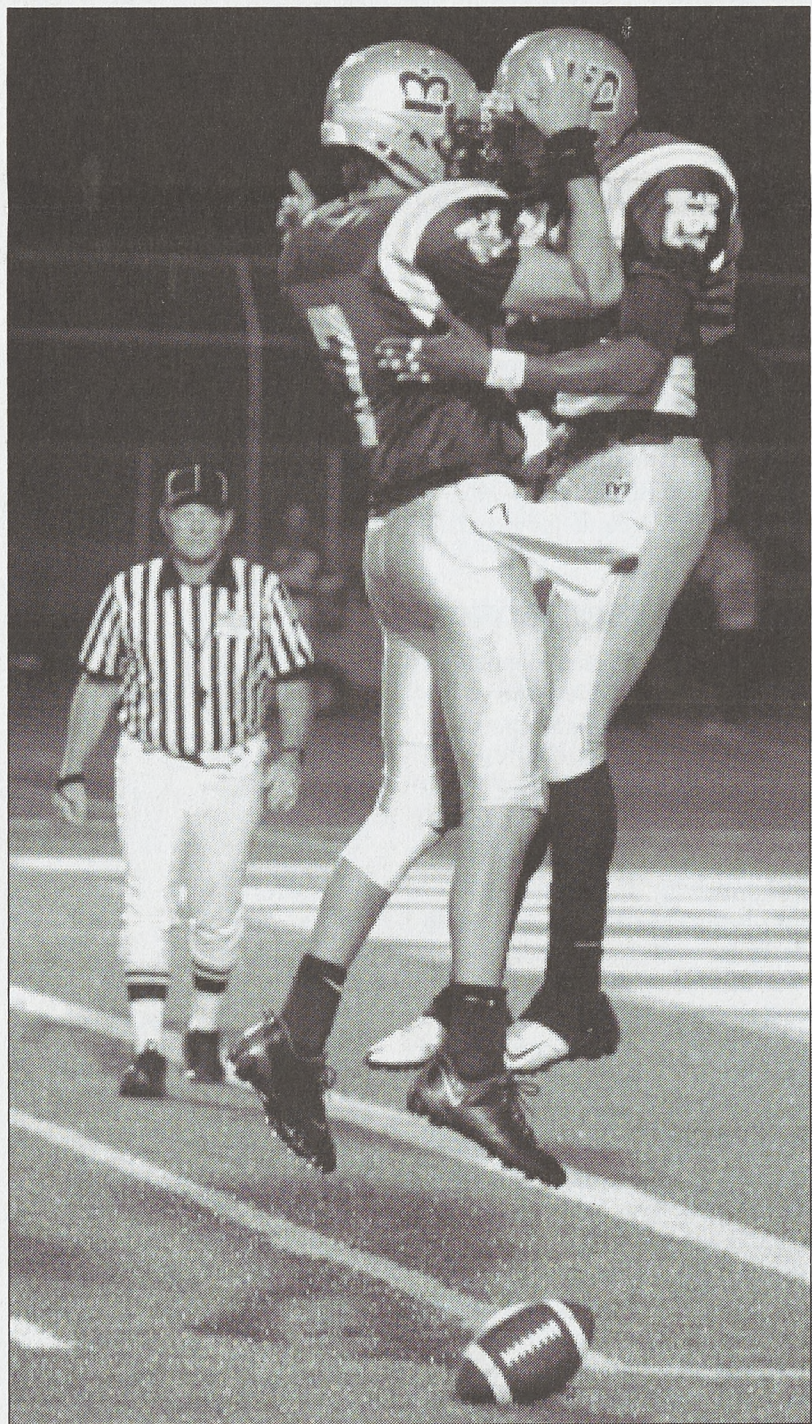
There's this line in The Rolling Stone's "Satisfaction" where Mick Jagger cries, "...he can't be a man because he doesn't smoke the same cigarettes as me." Obama's lifelong love of basketball, combined with his sports as life ethos, has established a connection between the president and any regular Joe who prefers ESPN, not C-SPAN.

While Obama's love for sport is real, it also serves as another weapon in his arsenal, politically. It's understandable to assume that if someone follows the president's picks for week four in the NFL, that same person is more inclined to catch an inkling of what Obama is talking about in politics. Taking advantage of this untapped crop of Joe Pigskins could be the saving grace of Obama's healthcare reform when it comes time for people to cast their vote.

With the U.S. dollar falling fast, stocks falling faster, and the general economy in the toilet, Obama has found a great alternative to help America's money problems: the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Six other U.S. cities made bids to hold the games, yet Obama personally flew to Switzerland to lobby for his home city of Chicago to host the Olympics. That's gamesmanship on both sides of the aisle as a politician and a sports fan.

As history has shown, the President of the United States battles daily to connect with citizens on every level of every stage. From throwing the first pitch, to having Michael Jordan and the Bulls come kick it at the White House, all of these fall under one category: press coverage. There's a new man in town and he's not worried where the cameras are; he's gonna shoot the J, hit the putt, and throw the first pitch - even if it's in the backyard.



GOOD TIMES - Monarchs celebrate after scoring against Santa Monica.

PIERCE TOO MUCH FOR VALLEY SOCCER GIRLS

SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

Sunny skies and perfect playing conditions were the backdrop for a long day of soccer as the Monarchs fell to the Pierce Brahmas on the road 5-0. Pierce, a perennial soccer powerhouse had too much talent, speed, and depth for the young team from Valley to handle.

Early in the first half, Monarch sweeper Rosie Garcia and Pierce forward Stephanie Cubias collided near the Monarch goal and went

down hard. After receiving medical attention they returned to the game. Garcia's strong defensive presence helped keep the spread to only five goals.

During half time, Head Coach Shane Watkins, told his team to forget about the score, go out and play, and learn from the experience. "You cannot wait for the ball to come to you. Go out there and attack the ball. They aren't waiting for the ball to come to them," said Watkins.



MID-AIR COLLISION - Monarch defensive sweeper, Rosie Garcia and Pierce College forward Stephanie Cubias, collide.

VALLEY WATER POLO COACH JIM McMILLAN JUST LOVES WINNING

Head Water Polo Coach Jim McMillan explains his love for coaching at the Community College level.

SARAH KNOWLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The rose-tinted glow that adorns Jim McMillan's face is clear evidence of a long career in the sunshine; Valley College's head water polo coach has trained student athletes outdoors for more than 20 years, and although the faces have changed, McMillan's goal to "mold student athletes into men" has not.

McMillan, who declined to state his age joking that "even the team don't know," coached at Pepperdine University for 12 years, where he took the 1997 team to a victory against USC to win the national championship. His decision to move to the Junior College level was built on an aspiration for personal growth and a belief that he could help athletes successfully transfer from community college.

"This is a better opportunity for me to help the athletes through life," he said. "The main priority remains the same, to help with life lessons, to help these athletes grow with the help of athletics."

After leaving college, McMillan became a life-guard and worked at Huntington Beach. Although a "great job in the summer months," McMillan said he

enjoys his current outdoor job most. As a former college player, he identifies with the hard work each player puts in to be a part of his team.

"They train everyday, starting at 6 a.m.," he said. "For these guys it's non-stop. They have families, jobs, all sorts of issues. So if I can help them it's all I want."

While the training remains non-stop for the athletes, McMillan remains active himself off campus. A keen golfer, he claims to keep fit outside of school with a range of sporting activities, also including hiking and jogging. He enjoys sports with family, friends and his two Labradors, who are never far behind on his outdoor trips.

The passion McMillan has is also recognized among colleagues; Valley's Sports Information Director Dale Beck has known McMillan since he began working at Valley, stating that he has "raised the bar," thanks to his prior experience.

"As both a former high school and Division 1 coach, he's developed an excellent understanding of what it takes to properly motivate his players to excel," said Beck. "The mutual respect is evident in the interaction one sees in both the weight room and around the pool."

Although some may feel that athletic talent and the chance to win major awards would be more gratifying at McMillan's previous Pepperdine position, he remains focused on the outcome of each performer, rather than the rewards.

As I always say, winning is only a bonus," said McMillan. "I don't do this job for that."



SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

COACHING BOY INTO MEN - Coach McMillan enjoys a bit of down time in between water polo practice sessions.

MEN'S WATER POLO FALLS TO VENTURA IN WESTERN CONFERENCE GAME

The Valley College men's water polo team loses 10-15 away against Ventura College last Wednesday.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Squaring off against Ventura last Tuesday the men's water polo team did a good job of working together as a team, but could not keep it together against the Pirates, losing 10-15.

"We're working hard and trying to get better every day, so it's a learning experience for us right now," said Valley Coach McMillan.

With sunny weather for the two teams, it was a perfect way to start the game for Valley. The Monarchs jumped in and began working together, but the Pirates scored quickly catching up to make sure they didn't fall behind.

"They played hard," said McMillan. "They made a couple of mistakes but I liked that they didn't quit and they kept fighting the whole time."

As minutes passed, the Monarchs displayed a well-executed defense, blocking eight shots from the Pirates. The team became stronger as they stayed consistent in their play throughout the rest of the game.

Coming into the second period - tied 4-4 with the pirates - the Monarchs began to work together as they scored three more shots to even out the score. This didn't stop the Pirates as they took the lead, became more aggressive and gained the lead over the Monarchs by halftime.

"I think we played very well, we need to keep playing and getting better, basically," said defender Trevor McHugh.

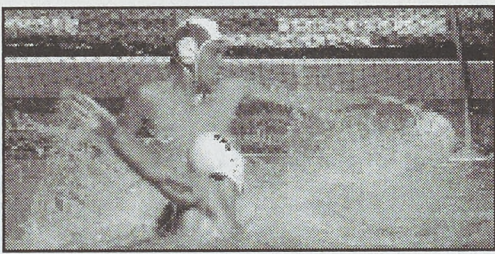
Currently the Monarchs have a record of 4-6, 1-0 as they face Santa Monica College in their upcoming match on Oct. 7. With a group of eager players they are sure to rise from this loss and gain a new lesson, and improve on what they are missing.

"If we can't gain control over the ball then we can't play defense so we have to control over the game a little bit better," said McMillan.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

JUST A BIT OUTSIDE - The Ventura College goalie makes a strong save against a Valley forward in the first half.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

HE SCORES - Monarch forward scores a goal.

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SCHEDULES

Men's Water Polo: Away

Oct. 7th 3 p.m.
Vs. Santa Monica
Oct. 9-10th TBA
Citrus College Tournament

Women's Soccer: Home

Oct. 9th 4 p.m.
Vs. Bakersfield

Cross Country: Away
Oct. 9th 3 p.m.
WSC Prelims @ Pierce College

Women's Water Polo: Away

Sept. 25th TBA
Mt. Sac Tournament

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Firefighters Fight Flames and Rescue Family of Four

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY
SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

Miraculously, no-one was injured when a fire broke out in a Van Nuys home recently, leaving the ranch-style house half destroyed. A faulty generator was thought to be the cause.

Fire companies from Engine Co. 81, Light Force 39, Light Force 89, Engine Co. 74, Rescue 7, Battalion 14, and Emergency Medical Service 12 were on scene and reached the fire in time to contain and prevent it from engulfing all of the dwellings on the property, as well as adjoining buildings.

A grandmother, mother, and three young daughters were home at the time, but were able to reach safety at a part of the property that was not burning.

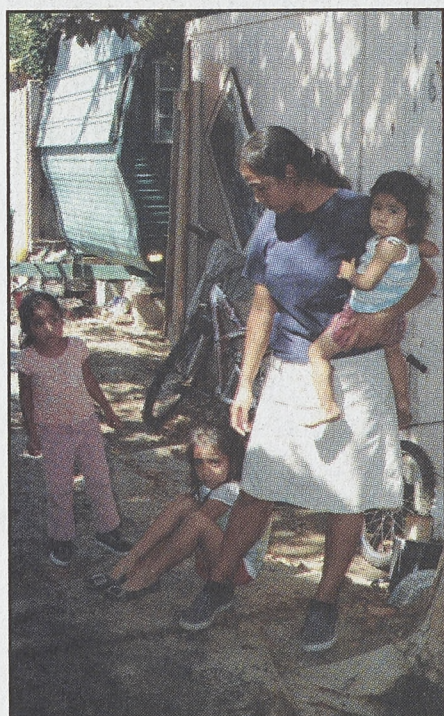
Firemen used axes and a chainsaw to fight the fire from atop a burning roof while others doused the fire with water from the ground. Fire teams were able to access the property from the east and the west sides.

The roof of a neighbor's home that was next to the north side of the property caught fire but was put out before it spread.

Traffic control officers shut down access to the street, as summer-like temperatures made the task on hand for fire fighters like Seth Springer, difficult. Springer stated that he had just returned from spending 16 days and nights in the mountains fighting the recent Station Fires in Angeles Crest Forest.



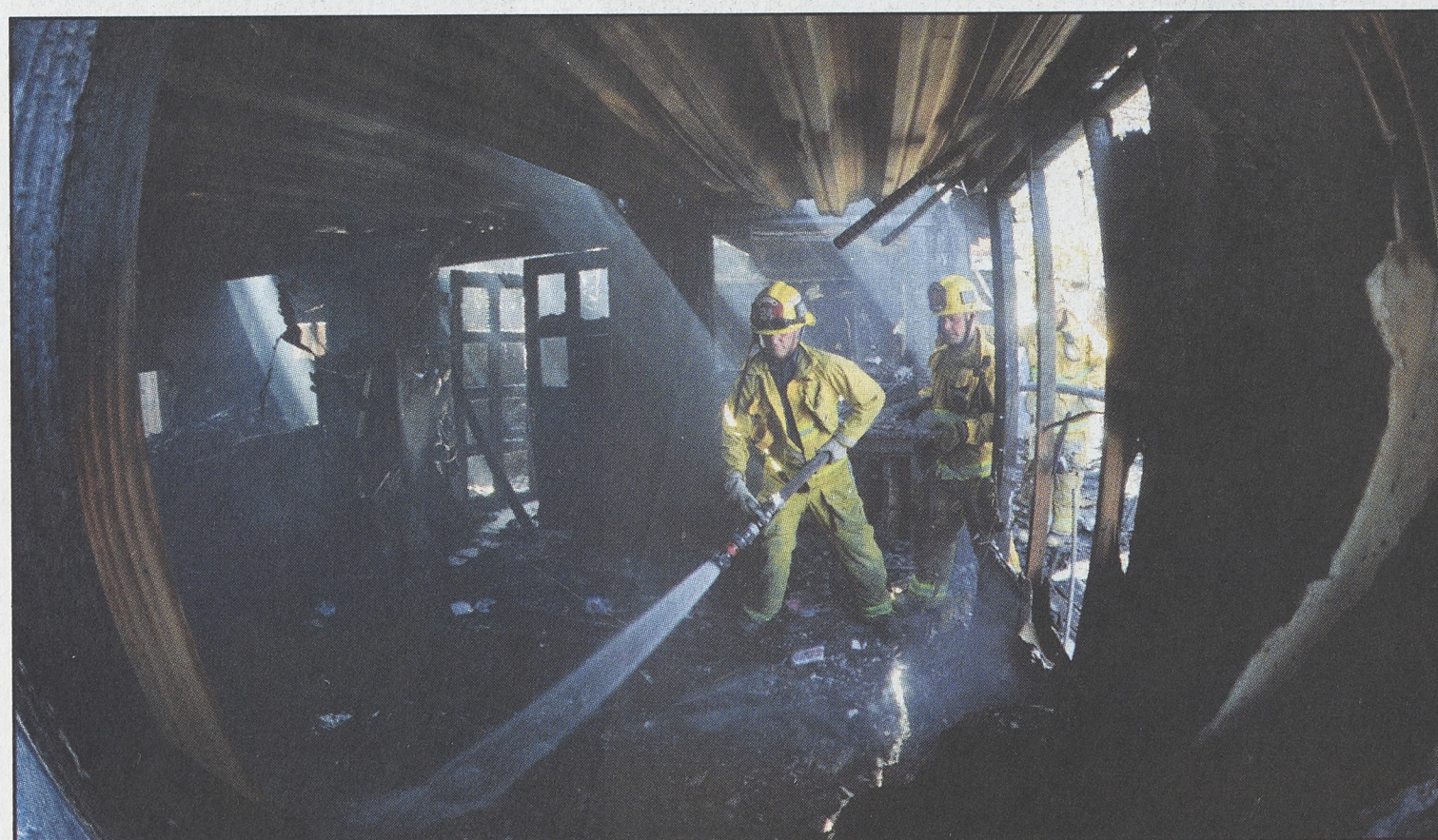
SMOKE AND ASHES - Fire fighters sift through the smoldering ashes in one of the bedrooms and remove debris and possible combustibles from the room.



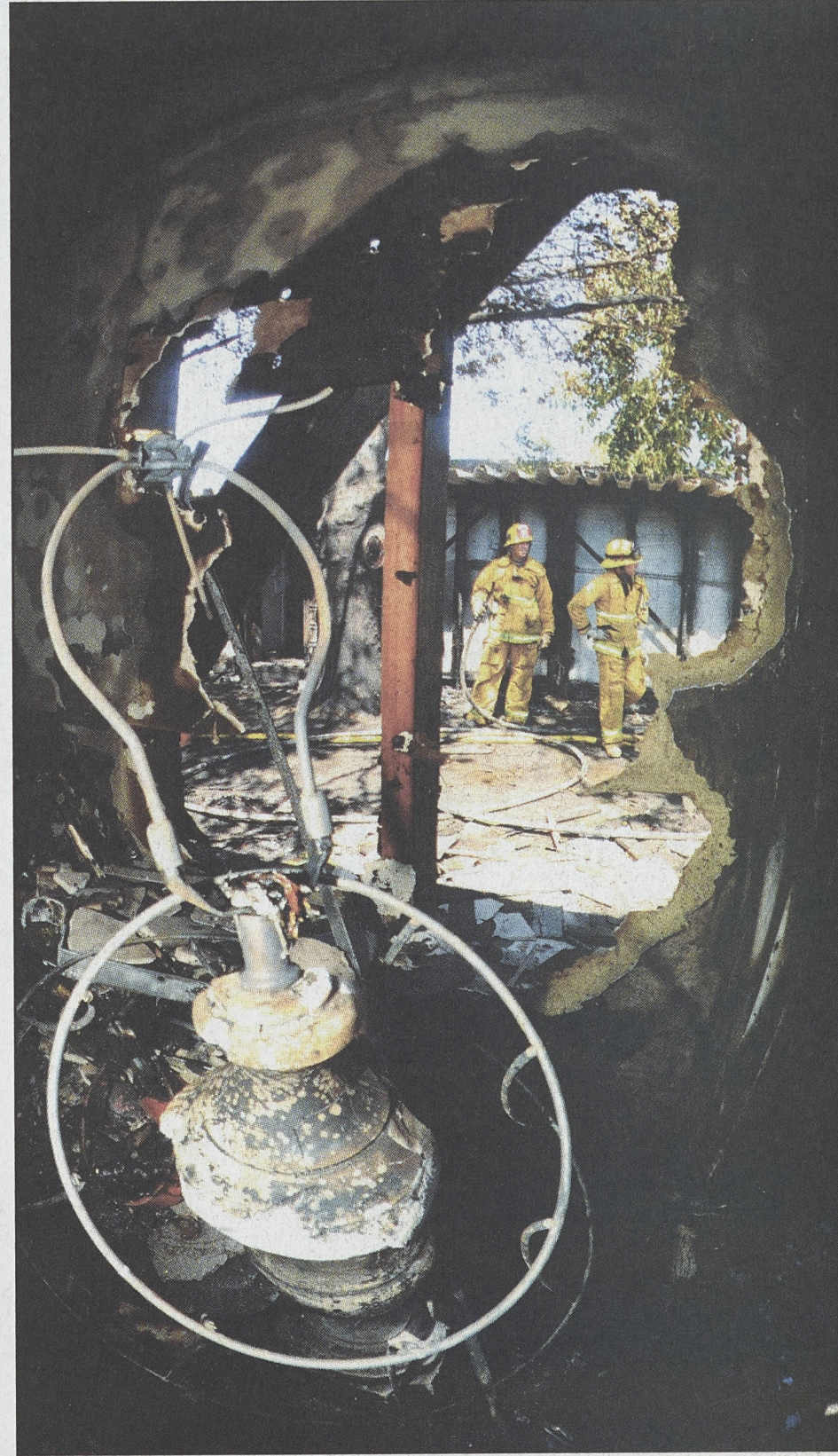
SADNESS - A family loses their home.



CLEAN UP - Firemen team up to remove the remnants of a metal box spring mattress.



TAKING NO CHANCES - Water is liberally sprayed throughout the burnt-out rooms to hit hot spots and put out the fire completely.



ASSESSING THE DAMAGE - Firemen look over the property as things cool down.